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AIR DISTRICT PRESENTS AIRE AWARDS

Lancaster -- A local conservationist, a Lancaster-based home builder and a nationwide water distribution company were recognized for their pollution prevention efforts today, as the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District (AVAPCD) presented its 2000/2001 awards for Achievement in Reducing Emissions (AIRE). The awards were presented during the local regulatory air agency's September Governing Board meeting, which was held at their Lancaster headquarters.

The recipients of the 2000/2001 AIRE Awards are:

Richard Campbell, Conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, for his ongoing contributions to dust mitigation in the Antelope Valley. Over the years, Campbell has come to be recognized as the Valley's unofficial dust control ambassador. His vast experience with agriculture, farming techniques and local farming practices have made Campbell a well-known and valuable resource in determining the most cost effective remedy for a specific dust control problem.

In 1997, Campbell became one of the founders of the Antelope Valley Dustbusters Task Force - a collaborative effort between two universities, state and local air agencies and several local organizations - which was formed for the purpose of developing cost-effective dust control strategies specific to the High Desert's climate. Since its inception, the Task Force has fostered a number of dust control strategies which have reduced blowing dust and stabilized erodible farm land throughout the Antelope Valley. Campbell was nominated for the AVAPCD's highest honor by Sherry Lasagna, Senior Deputy for Fifth District County Supervisor Mike Antonovich;

Lancaster-based Greystone Homes/Somervale Estates, for exceptional dust mitigation efforts throughout the construction process. In recognition of the potential hazards of blowing dust caused by grading and earth-moving machinery, Greystone insures that all of its contractors are thoroughly educated about proper dust control practices. Moreover, Greystone carefully monitors contractors to insure compliance with its exacting dust prevention policies and trains all employees in dust abatement techniques. As a result, Greystone has earned a reputation as one

of the most environmentally-friendly builders in the Antelope Valley. The AIRE award was accepted by Project Manager Tom Hay;

Danone Waters of North America (DWNA), for establishing a fleet of dedicated propane-fueled delivery trucks in the Antelope Valley. Over the past seven years, DWNA - one of the country's leaders in home and office water delivery - has placed more than 400 liquid propane gas (LPG) trucks into service throughout the country. Currently, five of the 15 delivery trucks operated by the distributor in the Antelope Valley are powered by low-emission propane fuel. Moreover, DWNA has committed to replacing the remaining 10 delivery trucks with LPG fueled vehicles by the end of this month, with funding assistance from the AVAPCD. This change-out will result in an annual reduction of 47.5 tons of nitrogen oxide emissions within the region. The AIRE award was accepted by Brent Wahl, Southern California Fleet Manager for DWNA.

The AIRE Awards recognize Antelope Valley entities which demonstrate an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary activities or projects which reduce or prevent air pollution within the AVAPCD's jurisdiction. According to the District's

Air Pollution Control Officer Chuck Fryxell, "By recognizing individuals and organizations who go the extra mile to reduce air pollution, the AVAPCD hopes to inspire others to follow their lead in implementing innovative and effective ways of protecting air quality." The AIRE Awards are presented annually by the AVAPCD in conjunction with National Pollution Prevention Week, September 17-23.